

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	Attorney Docket No.: <b>AIBARA0003</b>
Hideaki KIKO	)	Confirmation No. Unknown
Serial No.: Unassigned	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Filed: August 2, 2006	)	Examiner: Unassigned
For: VIRTUAL COMMUNITY SYSTEM	)	Date: August 2, 2006

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT**  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, this Information Disclosure Statement in connection with the above-identified application is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b):

☐ within three months of the filing date of this application (not a C.P.A.);

☒ within three months of the date of entry of the National Stage;

before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits of, after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under §1.114.

A copy of each non-U.S. document identified on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B is attached, however, in accordance with Official Gazette Notice dated August 5, 2003, copies of the U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.

Under Foreign Patent Documents, Document 1 relates to SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR LINKING DISTRIBUTED SERVICES AND RECORDING MEDIUM RECORDING PROGRAM THEREFOR. Document 2 relates to CYBERSPACE SYSTEM USING LANGUAGE WITH TAG. Document 3 relates to a DATA COMMUNICATION METHOD, DATA COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT SERVER, AND DATA COMMUNICATION SOFTWARE. Their relevance is believed to be clear from the present specification. Accordingly, no further comment with regard to the disclosures of these documents is believed to be required.

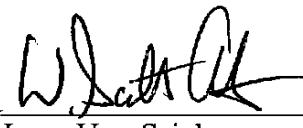
Attached is a copy of the Search Report issued in the corresponding PCT/JP2004/003866 application. Since documents 4 and 5 under Foreign Patent Documents were cited in said Search Report, it is believed that the relevancy of each document cited is clear from the Search Report. Accordingly, no further comment with regard to the disclosures of these documents is believed to be required.

It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and officially cited, and that the Examiner initial a copy of Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B, and return them to the undersigned to indicate that the documents have been considered.

It is believed that the present Information Disclosure Statement complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-8, but should the filing of this paper necessitate a fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the necessary fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1281.

Respectfully submitted,

*GRIFFIN & SZIPL, PC*

*for*  *Reg # 47,395*  
Joerg-Uwe Szipl  
Registration No. 31,799

GRIFFIN & SZIPL, PC  
Suite PH-1  
2300 Ninth Street, South  
Arlington, VA 22204

Telephone: (703) 979-5700  
Facsimile: (703) 979-7429  
E-mail: GandS@szipl.com  
Customer No.: 24203

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> ( Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number			
	Filing Date		2006-08-02	
	First Named Inventor	Hideaki KIKO		
	Art Unit			
	Examiner Name			
	Attorney Docket Number	AIBARA0003		

U.S. PATENTS							Remove
Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code <sup>1</sup>	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	1						

If you wish to add additional U.S. Patent citation information please click the Add button.

Add

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS							Remove
Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Publication Number	Kind Code <sup>1</sup>	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	1						

If you wish to add additional U.S. Published Application citation information please click the Add button.

Add

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								Remove
Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Foreign Document Number <sup>3</sup>	Country Code <sup>2</sup> i	Kind Code <sup>4</sup>	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>5</sup>
	1	2001-60187	JP	A	2001-03-06	NIPPON TELEGR & TELEPH CORP <NTT>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2	2001-325169	JP	A	2001-11-22	VASARA: KK		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3	2002-215551	JP	A	2002-08-02	UMEDA MASATERU		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> ( Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number			
	Filing Date		2006-08-02	
	First Named Inventor	Hideaki KIKO		
	Art Unit			
	Examiner Name			
	Attorney Docket Number	AIBARA0003		

	4	2002-082894	JP	A	2002-03-22	ATR MEDIA INTEGRATION & COMMUNICATIONS RES LAB		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	5	2002-312612	JP	A	2002-10-25	SONY COMMUNICATION NETWORK CORP		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you wish to add additional Foreign Patent Document citation information please click the Add button

#### NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, pages(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>5</sup>
	1	International Search Report Issued in the Corresponding Application PCT/JP2004/003866, Completed June 15, 2004 and Mailed June 29, 2004.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you wish to add additional non-patent literature document citation information please click the Add button

#### EXAMINER SIGNATURE

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.USPTO.GOV](http://www.USPTO.GOV) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>2</sup> Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>3</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>4</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>5</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**  
( Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	
Filing Date	2006-08-02
First Named Inventor	Hideaki KIKO
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	AIBARA0003

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

Please see 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 to make the appropriate selection(s):

☐ That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

**OR**

☐ That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2).

☐ See attached certification statement.

☐ Fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17 (p) has been submitted herewith.

☒ None

**SIGNATURE**

A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with CFR 1.33, 10.18. Please see CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.

Signature	/Joerg-Uwe Szipl/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2006-08-02
Name/Print	Joerg-Uwe Szipl	Registration Number	31799

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

## Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.